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Frances Burney (Madam D'Arblay). One of the most charming and attractive of them all is Mrs. Delany, whose face beams with benevolence, and whose curious and original works of art are carefully treasured in the British Museum. They are not paintings nor drawings, but flowers made of variegated colored paper, and the art of making them she could never quite successfully teach to others. She had colored paper sent to her from Europe and the East, and the work is said to be curiously beautiful. The book is an excellent portrayal of the life of the time.

E. H. S.

LEADING AMERICAN ESSAYISTS. By William Morton Payne, LL.D.
With four portraits. New York: Henry Holt & Company. 1910.

Conscientiously rather than brilliantly, Dr. William Morton Payne, Associate Editor of the *Chicago Dial*, contributes to Dr. Trent's "Biographies of Leading Americans" series, a volume on *Leading American Essayists*. An introduction which runs to forty pages states the difficulty of defining the essay—

which may be described as occupying a sort of literary limbo between the creative forms of poem, play, and novel, on the one hand, and the more substantial embodiments of knowledge or of speculative thought, on the other.

In the American field, the critic finds little to arrest his attention until he approaches "the region of the nineteenth century." In the aforesaid introduction he offers, however, rapid sketches of certain prose authors, beginning with Franklin and closing with Dr. Mabie—this with no obvious intention of anticlimax. Other contemporary essayists than Dr. Mabie, John Burroughs, and William Winter, are discussed with a line of characterization. These very brief biographies are followed by more detailed studies of Washington Irving (91 pp.), Ralph Waldo Emerson (105 pp.), Thoreau (75 pp.), and Curtis (78 pp.). Each of these essayists is depicted graphically as well as in the text. Holmes, Lowell, and Poe are reserved for consideration as poets rather than as essayists; which circumstance explains their omission. In the announcement of the general series one may read that—

It is not intended to put the books on a plane that will make much in them unattractive to any boy of fifteen who would care to read biography.

This somewhat roundabout statement of editorial policy has been respected by Dr. Payne—so that it would be manifestly unfair to look to his book for the verbal and intellectual sparkle of a Huneker or the psychological acumen of a James or of a Brownell. His miniature biographies are conservative—in the case of Emerson, one may say conventional; he has soberly retold the story that, in the case of two of his subjects, is well-worn; and he has added a useful volume to what promises to prove a useful series.

W. B. BLAKE.

THE INFLUENCE OF MOLIERE ON RESTORATION COMEDY. By Dudley Howe Miles. New York: The Columbia University Press.

A study that was commenced at the University of Chicago, continued at the University of Columbia, and now issued in the latter's admirable *Studies in Comparative Literature*, in which it is a worthy successor. The book discusses Molière in his environment, the English comedy before and with the Restoration, and then relates the influence of the former upon the latter whenever this can be directly shown. There is a studied effort to reject all hitherto assumed influence which cannot be proved by a comparison of the plays. A valuable Appendix gives a list of English plays that show this influence. In this Dr. Miles sums up his conclusions by a direct reference to particular sources in Molière. A Bibliography is added.

G. L. S.

RAMBLES IN SPAIN. By John D. FitzGerald. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Company.

This is an entertaining and instructive book of travels. The author is not the ordinary tourist who, after hastily traversing a foreign land, dots down his crude impressions. Formerly professor of the Spanish language and literature in Columbia University and now in the University of Illinois, Mr. FitzGerald went to Spain fully equipped and remained there for two years. He knows the country and its history. His book, based on letters written home at the time, is pleasant and easy reading; and it reveals an extensive acquaintance with the history and legends of the country. Now that photographs enable us to make